KU LEUVEN LIBRARIES

KU Leuven Libraries External storage facilities & management

KU Leuven

- KU Leuven is Europe's most innovative university (Reuters) and ranks 48th in the world (Times Higher Education).
- Located in Belgium, it is dedicated to research, education, and service to society.
- KU Leuven is a founding member of the League of European Research Universities (LERU) and has a strong European and international orientation.
- Our scientists conduct basic and applied research in a comprehensive range of disciplines. University Hospitals Leuven, our network of research hospitals, provides high-quality healthcare and develops new therapeutic and diagnostic insights with an emphasis on translational research.
- The university welcomes more than 50,000 students from over 140 countries. The KU Leuven Doctoral Schools train approximately 4,500 PhD students.

A library history with hickups

University		Library
Foundation of the University (by the City of Leuven)	1425	Diverse libraries, mainly at offices of professors
	1636	First Central Library in the Hallen
University closed by the French	1797	Books transported to Bibliothèque Nationale Paris and Brussels
State University founded	1817	
Reopening Catholic University	1835	Library in the Hallen, Naamsestraat
WWI: fire of Leuven	24 August 1914	Destruction of complete collection (1000 ms, 800 incunabels, 300.000 vol)
WW II	16 May 1940	Bomb in the tower, destruction of the stacks (900.000 volumes) and reading room
Split of University	1970	Division of the collections with Louvain-la-Neuve (unpair Leuven, pair UCL)

WWI : August 25th 1914



destruction of complete collection:

- 1000 manuscripts
- 800 incunabels
- 300.000 volumes



WWII: May 16th 1940



bomb in the tower
destruction of the stacks
(900.000 volumes) and reading room

May 1968 – 1971
creation of a French speaking university in Louvain-la-Neuve



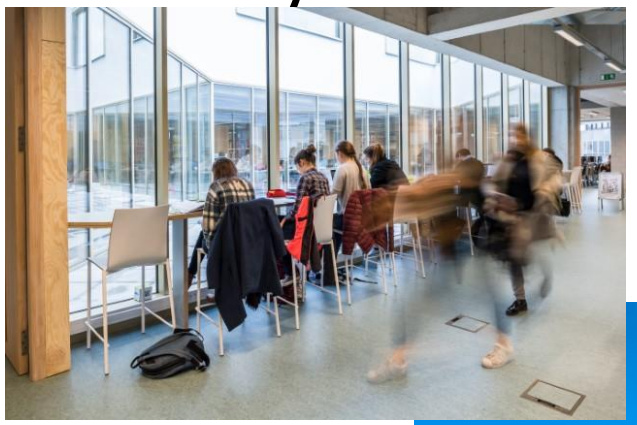




division of the Library collections
between the two universities

KU Leuven Libraries today















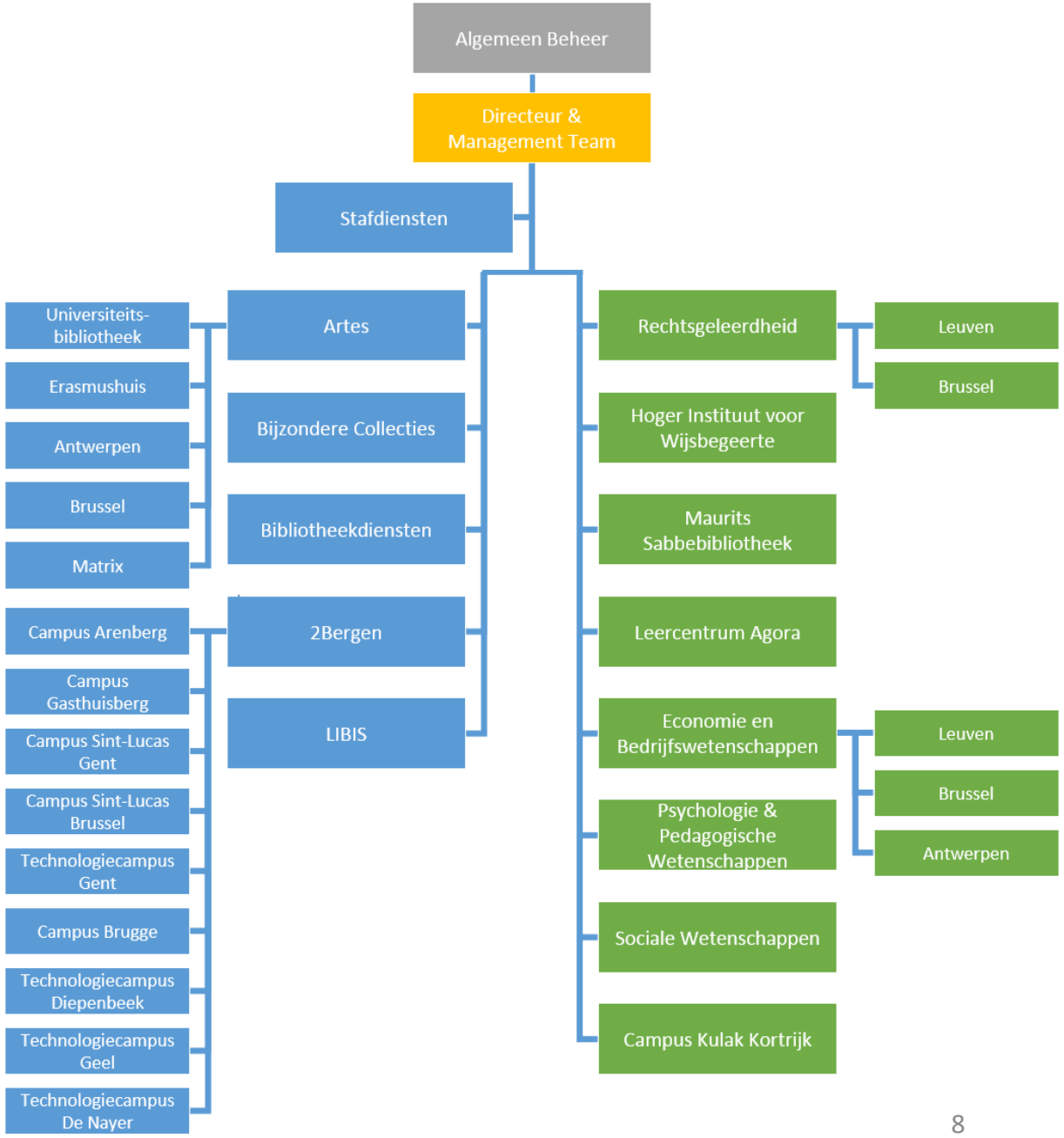


KU Leuven Libraries

- 24 locations
  - 12 in Leuven,
  - 12 elsewhere in Flanders:
    - Brugge, Gent (2), Antwerpen (2), Brussel (2), Kortrijk, Geel, Diepenbeek, Mechelen, Aalst
- mixed governance, 1 strategic plan

Directly under director

Faculty staff and budget



Facts & Figures

- around 4.000.000 bib records in our catalogue
  - 3 million physical collection
  - 500.000 electronic collection
- more than 3.500.000 visits on a yearly basis
- 7.000.000 full text downloads on our e-collection
- 5.000 seats in our libraries (on a total of 52.000 students)
- 250 staff
- 10.000.000 € collection budget
  - 1.5 million paper collection
  - 8.5 million e-collection

Special collections

- Theological Library

https://bib.kuleuven.be/english/msb/special-collections/our-special-collections

1.200 Manuscripts

200.000 Rare Books

- KU Leuven Libraries Special Collections

https://bib.kuleuven.be/bijzondere-collecties/english/home

2000 Manuscrpts (including 200 student notes)

Papyri snippets

40.000 Rare Books

140 Incunabula

(External) Storage

Available storage

•Closed Stacks in University Library	21.500 m
(13.000 m special collections included);	
•Closed Stacks in external facility BEXT	9.000 m
•Closed Stacks in Theological library	27.900 m
(27.000 m special collections included)	
•Storage Biomedical collection	6.990 m
•Storage Science & Technology collection	22.122 m
Total	87.512 m

Special collections (included in total number above):

University Library: 13.000 m

Theological Library: 27.000 m

Reasons for change

- Reorganisation of the library structure
- Historical University Library building
- End of lease of external facility BEXT
- Opportunity through Leuven Heritage Lab.

- Need for better and more state of the art storage facilities.

Reorganisation of the library structure

- 2010: STM libraries became part of the central library services
  - KU Leuven Libraries, 2 Bergen
- 2014: Library of the Art Faculty becomes part of the central library services
  - KU Leuven Libraries, Artes
    - Collections should be open
    - Collections spread over two buildings => History and Art History should be on one place, preferably University Library

Historical University Library Building

- Opened 1928, rebuild because of fire WWII
- In the 1960's additional flooring to accommodate both French and Flemish speaking library function
- Update necessary for electrical wiring

➢ New electricity Reading Rooms

➢ Moving East Asian library one floor down

➢ Open Stacks on Floor 2 and 3 : East –Asian collection, Art and History

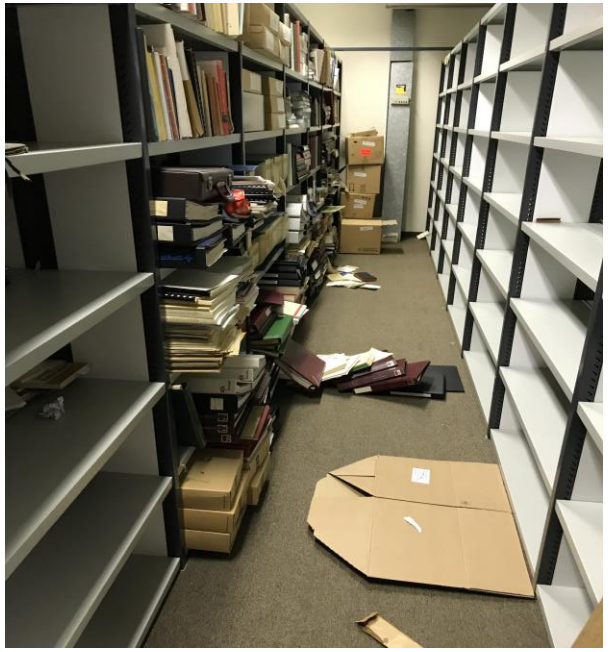
➢ Main Reading Room, LadeuzeRoom, MercierRoom

End of lease External Facility (BEXT)

- 9.000 m
- Beginning 2016 building sold, end of lease will be 30/12/2019
- Search for new facility

- New facility: Loods
  - Has to be climatised
  - Stacks have to be installed
- Internal reorganization necessary as 1/3 of space BEXT was taken up by unselected donations









BEXT: the old facility

The Warehouse

- Rented for 7 years
- Industrial warehouse
- 2 parts:
  - 1 climatised ASHRAE A: newspapers and journals
  - 1 serves as stock for exhibition material and location for climate installation
- Office for 3 people, occasional visits possible
- New management: 1 team, only digitization
- Large boxing project for newspapers

The Warehouse





Heritage Lab Leuven (https://erfgoedlabo.be/)

- 13 heritage institutions working together on 5 yards
  1. Stack for different types of collections
  2. Digital
  3. Knowledge and experience
  4. Communication and agenda
  5. Collection management

  Main investors: City of Leuven – KU Leuven University

  Partners: M-Museum, Parcum, Annunciaten, Heritage Cell Leuven, Centre for agriculture studies, KU Leuven Libraries Special Collections and Theological Library, KU Leuven University Archives - Art collection - Academic Collections, State Archives Leuven, CRKC, KADOC, Abdij van Park,

Leuven shared heritage facility

- 2 previous attempts: 2009 and 2016
- Now: May 15th 2020 applying for subsidy Flemish Government

Involvement of external partners neccesary

- Juridical structure and financial organisation: Law Firm: Laga => CVSO
- External firm to aid for organisation of the stacks (architectural): Toornend

Financially very hard to get engagement from City of Leuven (and because of that of KU Leuven)

Leuven shared heritage facility

- Will be a place for innovation because of the different types of collections => mix of best practices
- Through digital platform and linked data: collections more visible
- All partners will take part in one organisation (CVSO)
  - Staff will be part of the CVSO
  - Collections will be placed on type of object, not on owner
  - Shared facilities for quarantaine, digitization, education, technical rooms

Questions

- How are your stacks managed?
- Do you have one team or different teams for special collections and modern stacks?
- How do you work with/manage external storage
- Are you familiar with the management of different types of materials in one facility?
- How do you counter the idea that, now that everything is electronic, we only need preciosa? Stacks are no longer necessary….